



**CALIFORNIA  
HIGH-SPEED RAIL  
AUTHORITY**

**Weekly Executive Director's Report, August 20-27, 2009**

**FROM:** Mehdi Morshed  
**TO:** Authority Board Members

| TOPIC / UPDATE | LINE SECTION | AUTHORITY STAFF | RELEVANT DATE | NEXT STEP / ACTION NEEDED |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------|
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------|

**TOP ISSUES**

**Lawsuit Ruling**

A Sacramento Superior Court judge issued a ruling Wednesday 8/26 on the lawsuit challenging the Pacheco Pass portion of the Final Program Environmental Impact Report. Of approximately 15 issues raised by the petitioners, the judge found for the Authority on all but two, related to Union Pacific's statement that it would not share its right-of-way with HSR and to vibration tests.

San Jose - Gilroy

George Spanos

8/26/2009

Petitioners are required to prepare a judgment, but the Judge gave no date/deadline for this.  
Legal staff is reviewing options and will discuss this lawsuit in closed session at coming Board meeting.

**Rep. Eshoo Town Hall**

Congresswoman Eshoo held a high-speed rail-focused town hall in Menlo Park on 8/26/09, which was attended by roughly 350 people. Discussion was largely focused on outreach efforts, with both Authority staff and Rep. Eshoo pledging to do more going forward to keep residents on that area informed.

San Jose - San  
Francisco

Mehdi Morshed,  
Bob Doty, and  
Dominic Spaethling  
attended,  
presented, and  
answered questions  
at the event

8/26/2009

**POLICY DEVELOPMENTS**

**OUTREACH EFFORT HIGHLIGHTS**

**Sen. Feinstein Staff**

Briefed Senator Feinstein's district office staff (District Director Trevor Daley) on alternative alignments of the LA-Anaheim corridor.

|                       |             |           |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Los Angeles - Anaheim | Jeff Barker | 8/20/2009 |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|

**San Diego Chamber**

Staff briefed the executive board of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce. This was the third in a series of presentations made to the board about the high-speed train project.

|                         |             |           |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Los Angeles - San Diego | Jeff Barker | 8/27/2009 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|

**Local Elected Letter**

|   |                          |                            |           |  |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| Following the completion of an assessment of outreach activities in the Peninsula corridor, a letter was sent from Executive Director Morshed to elected officials in the 22 city, 3 county area inviting them to join a working group to improve the flow of high-speed rail information moving forward. | San Jose - San Francisco | Mehdi Morshed, Jeff Barker | 8/26/2009 | Secure city councils' and boards of supervisors participation in the working group, and begin regular outreach through the new entity. |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|--|

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Bills

AB 289 (Galgiani) was amended by the author to address a different subject. Provisions regarding a CEQA grade separation exemption were removed and replaced by other provisions requiring that state Prop. 1A bond funds be used to the extent possible to match federal ARRA high-speed rail stimulus funds.

All

Steve Schnaidt

9/11/2009  
(last day for a bill  
to pass this  
session)

Meetings

August 24th meeting held with California labor representatives to discuss labor delegation visit to Washington, D.C. in late September/early October to support HSRA application for ARRA high-speed rail stimulus funds.

Update legislators on status of  
HSRA ARRA application.

- Senate and Assembly leadership and Members are planning a September 13-17, 2009 legislative visit to Washington, D.C. to support state ARRA application and lobby Congress on California issues.

All

Steve Schnaidt

9/13-15/2009

## ENGINEERING/ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

### NOI/NOP Released

The Federal Railroad Administration submitted the Notice of Intent (NOI) for circulation (8/21), and the Authority delivered the Notice of Preparation (NOP) to the State Clearinghouse (8/24).

Palmdale -  
Bakersfield

Carrie Bowen, Tom  
Tracy

8/24/2009

### Scoping meetings:

9/15/2009-Bakersfield;  
9/16/2009-Tehachapi;  
9/17/2009-Palmdale

### NOI Submitted to FRA for release

The Federal Railroad Administration is expected to submit the Notice of Intent (NOI) for circulation by 8/28, and the Authority will deliver the Notice of Preparation (NOP) to the State Clearinghouse by 8/28.

Los Angeles -  
San Diego via  
the Inland  
Empire

Dan Leavitt, Jose  
Martinez

8/28/2009

### Proposed Scoping meetings:

9/22/2009-Murrieta; 9/23/2009-  
Riverside; 9/24/2009-Corona;  
9/29/2009-San Diego (UTC);  
9/30/2009-San Diego;  
10/1/2009-Escondido;  
10/5/2009-Ontario;  
10/6/2009-San Bernardino;  
10/7/2009-El Monte;  
10/8/2009-Pomona; **Regulatory  
Agency Meetings:** 9/29/2009-  
Carlsbad (USF&W);  
10/5/2009-Riverside  
(CARWQCB)

### Change in EIR/EIS Project Limits

On 8/17/2009, the Authority's staff formally directed that the Merced-Bakersfield EIR/EIS be split into two separate documents: Merced-Fresno, and Fresno-Bakersfield.

Merced-  
Bakersfield

Mehdi Morshed,  
Carrie Bowen

8/17/2009

NOI/NOPs have been drafted for Merced-Fresno and Fresno-Bakersfield and are being reviewed by Authority and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) staff for submittal/circulation.

## MEDIA

### CBS Sunday Morning

CBS Sunday Morning on 8/23/09 ran a lengthy segment on high-speed rail in California, for which they'd interviewed both Tony Daniels and Board member Quentin Kopp. The piece was positive.

Jeff Barker

Run date:  
08/23/09

The segment can be viewed here:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-i1ucduNSY&eurl=http%3A%2F%2Fcahsr%2Eblogspot%2Ecom%2F2009%2F08%2Fsunday%2Dmorning%2Ehtml&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-i1ucduNSY&eurl=http%3A%2F%2Fcahsr%2Eblogspot%2Ecom%2F2009%2F08%2Fsunday%2Dmorning%2Ehtml&feature=player_embedded)

### NPR.

Ina Jaffe of National Public Radio interviewed Chairman Curt Pringle for a story about the benefits of high-speed rail in California.

All

Jeff Barker

Expected run  
date: 9/3/09

## PUBLIC EVENTS

### USA Rail Conference.

USA Rail 2009 will be held Sept. 9-11 in Chicago. Among the speakers scheduled to attend is Joseph Szabo, the Federal Railroad Administrator

Board member  
Quentin Kopp will  
attend

9/11/2009

<http://www.terrapinn.com/2009/usarail/>

### Mobility 21.

A coalition of Southern California transportation, business, and local government entities will hold a summit in Los Angeles on 9/21/09.

Carrie Pourvahidi  
will present

9/12/09

<http://www.mobility21coalition.com/>

OTHER AUTHORITY BUSINESS

German M.O.U.

A German delegation visited the High-Speed Rail Authority's offices on Friday, 8/28/09, to formally sign the M.O.U. between the Authority and the German Federal Ministry of Transportation regarding information sharing.

Mehdi Morshed 8/28/2009

LOOKING AHEAD...

ARRA Deadline

The deadline for Track 2 applications for Recovery Act funding is October 2. Staff recommendations for projects to be submitted will be brought to the Board for approval prior to the deadline.

All

Mehdi Morshed,  
John Harrison 10/2/2009

Board approval no later than 10/1/09 monthly Board meeting.